



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 22, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: November 21, 2004  
CWP WA-CW4704

## Christmas Trees in High Demand Shellfish Pre-Holiday Harvest

### Field Crops

Christmas trees were in high demand as producers harvested under ideal weather conditions. In Thurston County, some Christmas tree growers added floodlights to their baling equipment in order to extend the workday. Due to wet conditions in Whatcom County, there were a few producers that could not complete their corn harvest. Franklin County also reported that there was still some field corn left to harvest. Douglas County reported that winter wheat was below average in some areas. Overall, winter wheat was looking good in most areas of the state.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 9% poor, 49% fair, and 41% good. In Ferry and Okanogan Counties, current conditions remained so that most cattle were still on fall pastures while some cattle were on winter feeding grounds. Douglas, Chelan, and Walla Walla Counties reported that feed was being supplemented to cattle. Pacific County shellfish growers were harvesting operations. Oyster hand and dredge harvesting was heavy in all parts of Willapa Bay, with good yields from strong summer growth. Pacific County also reported that clam harvests were up for the seasonal market.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Whatcom County raspberries were still being pruned and tied. Apple harvest was completed in Grant County with pruning underway.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.4
Last Week	6.2

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	11	79	9
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	8	35	55	2
Subsoil	2	21	74	3
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	45	44	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	0	2	96	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Emerged	97	95	98	98
Potatoes Harvested	100	99	100	100
Corn Grain Harvested	84	76	97	85

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	1	24	71	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Thousands of Christmas trees continued to leave the county on a daily basis, destined for tree lots in California and other Southern states. Growers worked feverishly to meet tight delivery schedules. Several days of no rain and cool, brisk temperatures provided ideal Christmas tree harvest conditions. Commercial potato growers reported brisk sales of the Harbor's famous Yellow Finn variety. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging and washing tubers for winter storage. Home gardeners continued raking leaves and sprucing up the home landscape for the holiday season.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Dry weather facilitated Christmas tree harvest. Killing frosts finally arrived, but the weather continued on the mild side.

**Pacific:** Shellfish growers continued harvesting operations during the busy pre-holiday season. Oyster hand and dredge harvesting was heavy in all parts of Willapa Bay, with good yields from strong summer growth. Clam harvests were also up for the seasonal market. Growers haven't seen harmful algal blooms or bacterial problems this year. Christmas tree growers were busy with harvest operations as well, preparing for early season sales.

**Snohomish/King:** Occasional rains and cool fall weather

was the weather pattern for the week. A couple of hard frosts and up to 2 inches of accumulation of precipitation were received in some areas. Pastures were wet and the growth was slow. Christmas tree farms were in final preparations for the holiday season.

**Thurston:** The distant hum of tree baling equipment echoed across valley floors as growers continued a hectic schedule of trying to meet deadlines for the delivery of wholesale Christmas trees. With most tree lots nationwide opening the day after Thanksgiving, it was another case of everyone wanting their product at the same time. Some growers added floodlights to their baling equipment to extend the workday. With the exception of Christmas tree growers, most ag producers ceased most outdoor activity for the winter. Some growers were contemplating year end equipment purchases. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging and dividing tubers.

**Whatcom:** The weather was a mixed bag for the week. There were some breezy conditions along with a couple of mornings of frost and rainy days. Raspberries were still being pruned and tied. Some producers could not complete their corn harvest due to wet conditions.

## Central

**Chelan/Douglas:** Winter wheat was below average in areas of the county, going into winter. No snow cover was present. Temperatures were cold, but no below normal temperatures for this time of year. Cattle were in late fall pastures, but there was little feed available, so feed was being supplemented.

**Franklin:** Most crop harvests neared completion. There was some field corn left to harvest that was slow to dry.

**Grant:** Apple harvest was complete. Pruning was underway.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Due to current conditions, most cattle were still on fall pastures while some cattle were on winter feeding grounds. The winter wheat crop looked good going into winter. Temperatures were normal for this time of year. Precipitation was lower than normal.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from four degrees below normal to five degrees above normal, with 0.05 of an inch of precipitation. There was no crop damage due to weather conditions.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat was in good condition overall. Moisture conditions remained in mostly adequate supply, but there was still some shortage. Higher than average winter precipitation is needed.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat was in good condition. Precipitation was adequate for now, but more will be needed.

**Stevens:** The county had received no snow as of November 21. Farmers completed winter chores such as checking anti-freeze and putting away equipment. The area has good moisture levels for going into winter.

**Walla Walla:** Foggy, cool days continued. Hard rain was received on Monday evening, followed by more damp,

foggy days. Winter wheat continued to look good. Numerous cattle producers were feeding hay. Feeder hay was easily available this year due to weather conditions during spring and summer haying.

**Whitman:** A majority of the winter wheat was emerged and looked good. Many cattle producers reported pasture conditions were good and the hay supply was adequate. There is much to be thankful for this holiday season. Season's Greetings to all!

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** More rain was received in the Palouse, with some dry areas receiving up to one third of an inch. Temperatures cooled and most operations completed fall work.

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

November 22, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	27	64	43	0	6	4	0	0	0.98	-0.22	4	12.20	3.29	137	44
Everett	32	55	44	1	1	-4	0	0	0.81	-0.38	4	7.00	-1.67	81	39
Hoquiam	31	53	44	-3	1	-6	0	0	1.54	-0.96	5	14.18	-2.51	85	44
Kelso	29	54	45	1	0	-7	0	0	0.53	-1.09	4	6.04	-4.76	56	26
Olympia	28	57	44	3	0	-7	0	0	0.73	-1.27	4	10.63	-1.65	87	43
Sea-Tac	32	55	44	0	2	-5	0	0	0.66	-0.78	3	7.54	-1.68	82	33
Shelton	28	54	43	-2	1	-6	0	0	1.04	-1.51	3	12.85	-2.56	83	38
Tacoma	27	54	43	0	0	-5	0	0	0.79	-0.68	4	7.50	-1.93	80	32
Vancouver	28	56	46	3	4	-3	0	0	0.73	-0.73	4	7.10	-2.15	77	35
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	24	52	39	5	0	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.56	-0.29	84	21
Stampede Pass	26	51	37	10	0	0	0	0	1.70	-1.32	4	17.52	-0.95	95	41
Wenatchee	25	48	38	3	0	-1	0	0	0.14	-0.14	2	1.14	-0.48	70	18
Yakima AP	19	54	38	1	0	-3	0	0	0.04	-0.24	2	1.36	-0.20	87	12
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	20	52	39	6	0	0	0	0	0.14	-0.54	1	4.47	0.26	106	25
Deer Park	20	47	37	4	0	0	0	0	0.56	-0.09	2	4.74	0.99	126	26
Spokane AP	24	49	37	3	0	0	0	0	0.42	-0.13	2	2.39	-0.81	75	20
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	24	49	37	2	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.51	0.01	101	12
Moses Lake	22	51	37	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	-0.27	1	1.08	-0.42	72	11
Quincy	23	51	38	3	0	-5	0	0	0.09	-0.19	2	0.93	-0.76	55	11
Ritzville	26	49	39	4	0	-6	0	0	0.28	-0.14	2	1.46	-1.01	59	13
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	23	54	40	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.17	-0.09	3	1.24	-0.17	88	14
Pasco	21	56	40	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.10	-0.18	2	1.17	-0.45	72	15
Pullman	22	50	40	4	0	0	0	0	0.01	-0.64	1	1.22	-3.05	29	19
Whitman Miss.	25	57	41	1	0	-7	0	0	0.30	-0.13	2	2.40	-0.57	81	23
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	25	46	38	2	0	0	0	0	0.65	-0.19	3	5.21	0.11	102	23
Lewiston ID	29	59	44	5	2	2	0	0	0.08	-0.20	3	2.15	-0.33	87	21

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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